

Winwick Grange  
Flint Hill, Winwick  
Northamptonshire  
NN6 6PB (NGR SP 619742)

## Archaeological Investigation

Planning App. Ref. DA/2016/0060  
HER Event No. ENN108402



September 2016

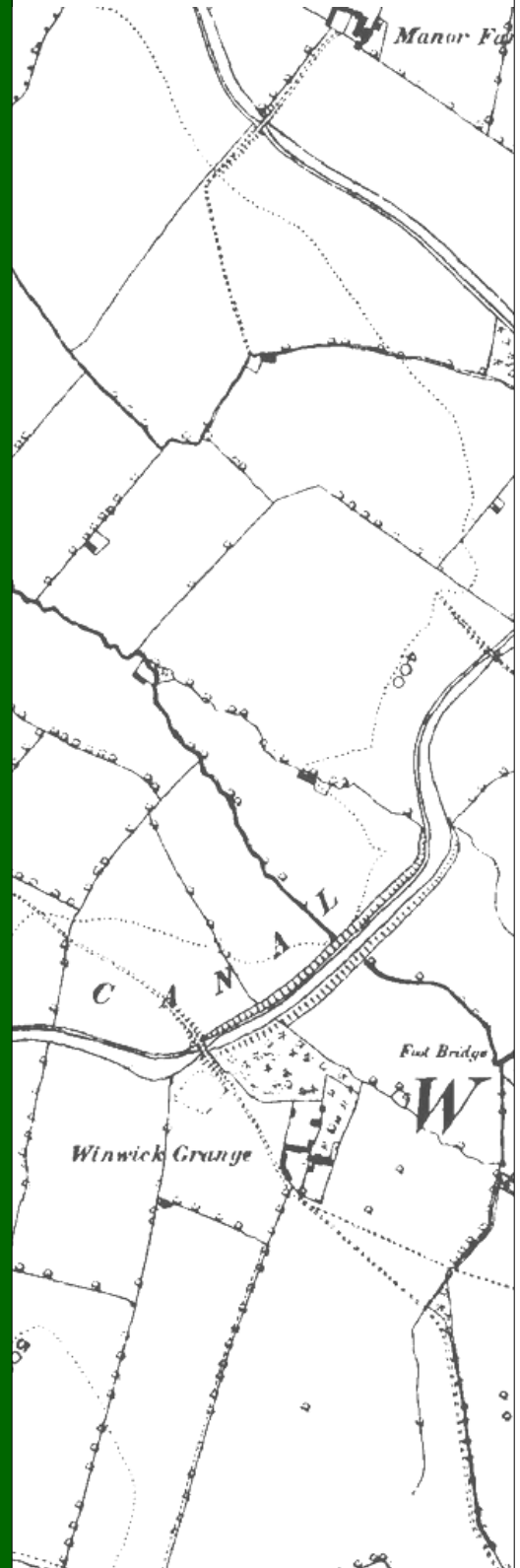
Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

*for*

Mr J Mills & Son

# Souterrain

**Archaeological Services Ltd**



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Northamptonshire, NN6 6PB**

NGR SP 619742

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Souterrain Project: SOU16-483

*Produced for:*

**Mr J Mills & Son**

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(Illustrations follow the main text)

***Preface***

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

**Fieldwork & Report:**

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## **Summary**

*Archaeological monitoring and investigation was carried out during the preparation of ground for an agricultural grain store at Winwick Grange, Winwick, Northamptonshire, in proximity to the scheduled site of Winwick medieval settlement.*

*A very shallow linear hollow was observed to run across the proposed footprint, the course of which was surveyed. The subsequent soil strip revealed traces of the the linear feature to be ephemeral feature showing as gleying of the soil. There were no other features present and no artefacts.*

*The excavation of a series of stanchion pits revealed no buried soil horizons below the subsoil.*

*The site did not exhibit any obvious signs of truncation. The area affected by the new building and its access area was surveyed and recorded.*

*It is not possible to infer the past cultural status or function of this part of the landscape from the results of the investigation.*

## **1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report documents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording carried out by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) during ground preparation for an agricultural grain store, at Winwick Grange, Northamptonshire, NN6 6PB (Fig. 1) in compliance with a condition attached to the planning consent.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Mr J Mills & Son (the planning applicant) of Winwick Grange, Northamptonshire and took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2016.

## **2. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Outline Planning permission (DA/2016/0060) has been granted subject to Conditions on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2016 to Mr J Mills & Son, for the construction of an agricultural grain store building at Winwick Grange, Flint Hill, Winwick, Northamptonshire, NN6 6PB (the Application Site).
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site a Condition (No. 5) has been attached to the planning permission for a programme of archaeological mitigation work. The reason for the Planning Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.3 An archaeological investigation (Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis & Publication of Works) was subsequently undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Souterrain 2016) which was duly accepted by Liz Mordue 2016, Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council.<sup>1</sup>

## **3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT**

- 3.1 The Application Site is located to the northwest of Winwick Village. The new grain store is to be located on the north-eastern side of the existing farmyard buildings at NGR SP 619 742 (Fig. 2), as defined on the drawings (latest versions) associated with the planning application<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2 There are no designated sites or monuments within the proposed development area. The proposed building is to be situated outside of the designated area of the Scheduled Monument of Winwick medieval village (Fig.1 and Fig.2; SM No. 1418336). The Application Site is not located within a Conservation Area.
- 3.3 Prior to the investigation the land was in use for grazing. The topography of the site is around 120 m OD. The underlying solid geology is understood to be at the interface of the silty and sandy mudstones of the Dyrham Formation and below, silty mudstones and argillaceous sediments of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2016).
- 3.4 Prior to the commencement of groundwork, there were no visible signs of recent or historic disturbance at the Application Site.

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<sup>1</sup> Email. From: Liz Mordue, Sent: 06 July 2016 10:23, To: 'Souterrain Archaeological Services', Subject: RE: Winwick Grange\_Scheme of Investigation

<sup>2</sup> JRC, Drawing No. 8669/D1 Rev A, 11.04.2016, 'Proposed Agricultural Storage Building'

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL

4.1 Prior to the investigation a search was carried out of Northamptonshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) from a 1 km radius (the Study Area) of the Application Site. The HER numbers in the footnotes refer to the specific record for each monument, find spot, archaeological site or archaeological event.

##### **The Prehistoric period**

4.2 Evidence of the prehistoric periods in the Study Area is sparse. The only recorded site is that of a cropmark site of a prehistoric enclosure of uncertain function (c. 1.1 km NE of the Application Site)<sup>3</sup>. No sites or finds of the prehistoric period have been recorded in the village of Winwick.

##### **The Roman period**

4.3 Evidence of the Romano-British periods in the Study Area is equally scant. A 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman coin<sup>4</sup> has been reported from a metal detectorist from a very approximate location within the present village (c. 700 m SE of the Application Site), and a single sherd of pottery was found in a medieval pit during an evaluation in 1998, in advance of a sewage works within the village (c. 640 m SE)<sup>5</sup>.

##### **Late Saxon and Early Norman Settlement**

4.4 The Application Site is located on the north-western periphery of a nationally important historic landscape which contains earthwork remains of the abandoned late Saxon to medieval settlement of Winwick (Scheduled Monument 1418336)<sup>6</sup>. The monument, which extends over an area of more than 75 hectares, surrounds the present day 'shrunk' village of Winwick on three sides: anti-clockwise from northwest to southeast.

4.5 The earliest mention of the settlement at Winwick is in the Domesday survey of 1086, at which time there were twenty-two heads of households (16 villagers, 5 smallholders and a priest), representing a fairly large population of perhaps over 100 persons<sup>7</sup>. Prior to the Norman Conquest the lordship of *Winewiche* was held by the Abbey of Coventry (St Mary's) and remained in its possession in 1086. The cultivable land was assessed at 6.5 ploughlands, with the village possessing three mens' plough teams and another three teams belonging to the lord. Archaeological finds of the Saxon period have so far been few, consisting of a fragment of a stone cross recorded at St Michael's church in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (c. 730 m SE of the Application Site)<sup>8</sup> and ditch containing sherds of pottery (*post.* 4.9).

4.6 The medieval settlement was located on the banks of a NW-flowing stream (centred c. 740 m SE of the Application Site). An earthwork survey carried out by the Royal Commission (1981) shows a fairly regular layout of crofts, tofts, paddocks, enclosures, gardens and roads (RCHME, 1981, f.147). Although the origin of the settlement is uncertain, though we might assume that the regular system of tofts and crofts was formally laid out in the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century, as is understood to have been the case throughout the central Midlands (*e.g.* Lewis 2006, 191; Edgeworth 2007, 93). During a period of widespread reorganization, dispersed settlements were brought together to be centralized around a church and manor house surrounded by a planned open field system. The purpose of such large scale re-planning is open to speculation, but was probably to improve social cohesion and increase productivity (Lewis 2006 *op.cit.*). The parish church of St Michael<sup>9</sup>,

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<sup>3</sup> HER 5751 - MNN2122 (centred SP 62403 75133)

<sup>4</sup> HER 0/0/64 - MNN155935

<sup>5</sup> HER 1085/0/14 - MNN36483

<sup>6</sup> HER 1085 - MNN572

<sup>7</sup> see Open Domesday <http://opendomesday.org/place/SP6273/winwick/> [accessed 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016]

<sup>8</sup> HER 1085/1/2 - MNN32208 SP 62574 73871

<sup>9</sup> HER 1085/1/1 - MNN108676



situated on the right bank of the stream (c. 730 m SE of the Application Site), is the oldest extant building at Winwick, stylistically dated from the 13<sup>th</sup> century; but this does not however, preclude an earlier foundation. To the northwest of the church is a 16<sup>th</sup> century manor house (c. 675 m SE of the Application Site)<sup>10</sup>, which is also believed to be sited upon an earlier foundation.

- 4.7 Today, Winwick village is surrounded on three sides by earthwork remains of medieval cultivation strips (ridge and furrow) which are visually exceptional. They form an integral part of the nationally important monument of Winwick medieval village (*ante* 3.2)<sup>11</sup>, depicting the physical characteristics of the cultivation system in relation to the settlement. The layout of the cultivation system was in no way static however, but depicts a shifting settlement, as evidenced by some of the closes, particularly in the northwest which are over-ploughed by ridge and furrow<sup>12</sup>. Also at the northwest end of the settlement, is a medieval rectangular moated enclosure<sup>13</sup> which survives as a shallow island earthwork, c. 40m x 40m. This too, is striated by ridge and furrow. It is thought that the moat marks the site of the medieval grange of Pipewell Abbey which is known from a field name 'Great Grange'<sup>14</sup>.

#### **Post-Medieval to Modern periods**

- 4.8 The late 17<sup>th</sup> century Hearth Tax returns record just 25 households at Winwick. The system of medieval strip cultivation<sup>15</sup> remained largely in operation until 1794, when the open fields of the parish were inclosed by a private Act of Parliament. To the west of the village much of the ridge and furrow of these fields has since been ploughed out. The layout of the present day village has changed little since the commutation of tithes in 1839. Another feature of historic interest at Winwick is the course of the old Grand Union Canal, constructed between 1801 and 1814<sup>16</sup>, which passes about 125 m to the northwest of the Application Site.

#### **Archaeological Investigations**

- 4.9 Very few below-ground archaeological investigations have taken place within the Study Area at Winwick. In 1998 an evaluation by trial trenching was carried out within the earthworks of the shrunken village in advance of a replacement sewage works (c. 640 m SE of the Application Site) (see (Holmes 1998 and 1999)<sup>17</sup>. The trenching located a range of features – ditches, pits and gullies - mostly pertaining to domestic land-use from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, although a single ditch was dated to the late Saxon date period. A subsequent watching brief in 2006 recorded no significant archaeological remains<sup>18</sup>.

## **5. PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION & RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 In view of the deemed archaeological potential of the Application Site, the Written Scheme of Investigation advocated a series of research objectives with particular emphasis on regional research themes (*see*. Knight, Vyner & Allen 2012; Cooper, 2006). In brief, the key objectives of the investigation were to:

1. Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site.
2. Establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.

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<sup>10</sup> HER 1085/3 - MNN16494

<sup>11</sup> HER Nos. 9847/0/4 to 9847/0/15

<sup>12</sup> HER 1085/0/1 - MNN131451; 1085 - MNN572

<sup>13</sup> HER 1085/2/1 - MNN131449

<sup>14</sup> HER 1085/2 - MNN8737

<sup>15</sup> HER 9847 - MNN137051

<sup>16</sup> HER502 - MNN132088

<sup>17</sup> HER 1085/0/10 - MNN36478

<sup>18</sup> HER ENN104451

3. Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
4. Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.
5. To attempt to determine the function of this part of the landscape in the medieval periods.
6. To augment knowledge of the medieval settlement and the agrarian economy at Winwick.
7. Identify deposits which have the potential for the recovery of environmental data that may contribute to research themes such as changes in animal husbandry, diet and living conditions and land-use.
8. To attempt to recover information to contribute to understanding the origin of the Midland open field system.

## **6. FIELD PROCEDURE**

- 6.1 The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Rev. 2014). Ground reduction was undertaken by mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth ditching bucket under the guidance of an experienced archaeologist. All investigation and recording was carried out in accordance with the written scheme. Archaeological features were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum by RTK DGPS.

## **7. INVESTIGATION RESULTS**

- 7.1 Prior to the soil strip, a shallow linear hollow was observed to cross the proposed building footprint (Fig. 3), 1.9 m wide and c. 0.12 m deep.
- 7.2 Topsoil was removed from a broadly rectangular area (Figs. 2 and 3) which comprised the proposed building footprint and the access/construction working area; overall an area of approximately 1360 sq.m. The topsoil (001) consisted of dark greyish-brown silty clay soil between c0.14 m and 0.2 m in thickness throughout the area. There were no artefacts present. The subsoil (002), at c. 123 m OD, comprised of firm light grey-brown to light brown clay.
- 7.3 Removal of topsoil faintly revealed the course of the aforementioned linear feature as a slightly darker soil (Fig. 3, (003); Section 12, photos 3 - 4), although in some parts it had disappeared altogether. A box section was excavated across the feature (Fig. 3; Section 12, photo 4) to ascertain its character. There was no visible cut edge to the feature, its 'fill' becoming diffuse and merging with the geological stratum at 2 to 3 centimetres, probably a product of gleying.
- 7.4 Other than this feature (003) there were no traces of buried soils and no signs of anthropogenic disturbance. There were no artefacts present in the subsoil.
- 7.5 Subsequent to the laying of a hard core base upon a geo-textile membrane, twenty-one stanchion pits were dug. The pit numbering sequence follows that of the design drawing. The excavation of each pit was monitored by the archaeologist in order to ascertain whether or not any buried soils were present. A photographic and survey record was made (Fig 4; Section 11, photos 5 to 25)
- 7.6 The stanchion pits were either c. 1.8 m x 1 m or c. 1.3 m x 1 m, except for S24 which was c. 4.5 m x 1 m (Fig. 4). The pits were dug to depth generally between c. 0.8 - 1 m (from the upper horizon of the subsoil). Only in pits S8, S9 and S18, in the northeast corner of the building footprint, was the next geological interface encountered. This comprised ironstone, reached at c. 0.65 - 0.7 m (around 122.3 m OD). There were no buried soils present in either pit and no artefacts. The subsoil is considered to have been an undisturbed geological deposit.

## **8. REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- 8.1 The investigation proved to be 'negative' in terms of significant archaeological remains being present.
- 8.2 The investigation was unable to contribute any of the defined archaeological research objectives at section 5.
- 8.3 The site did not exhibit any obvious signs of truncation or anthropogenic disturbance.
- 8.4 It is not possible to infer the past cultural status or function of this part of the landscape from the results of the investigation.

## **9. ARCHIVE**

- 9.1 A photographic record was made and the site was surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum; all data is contained in this report.
- 9.2 The OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations: [www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)) identification number for this project is souterra1-262846.

## **10. COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

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- 10.2 Souterrain undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Applicant's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that owners respect Souterrain's and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

## **11. REFERENCES**

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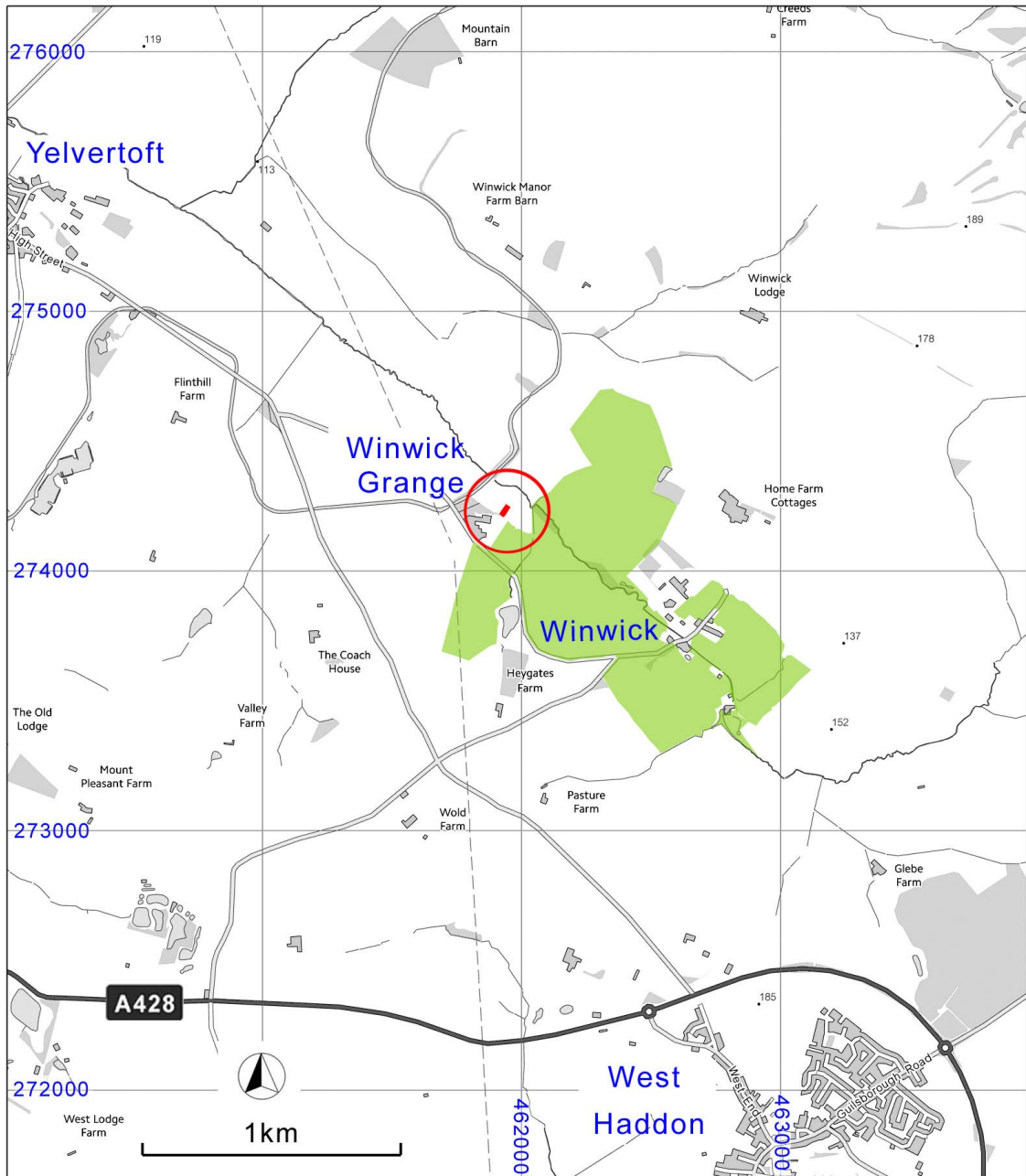
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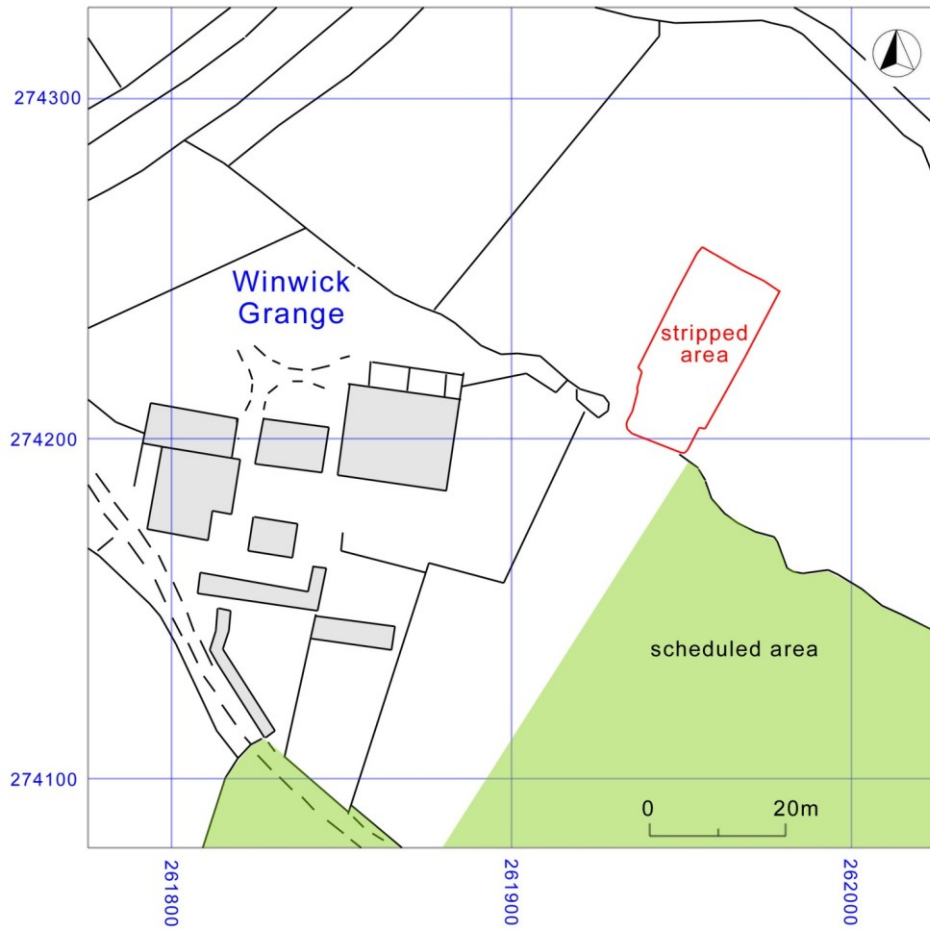
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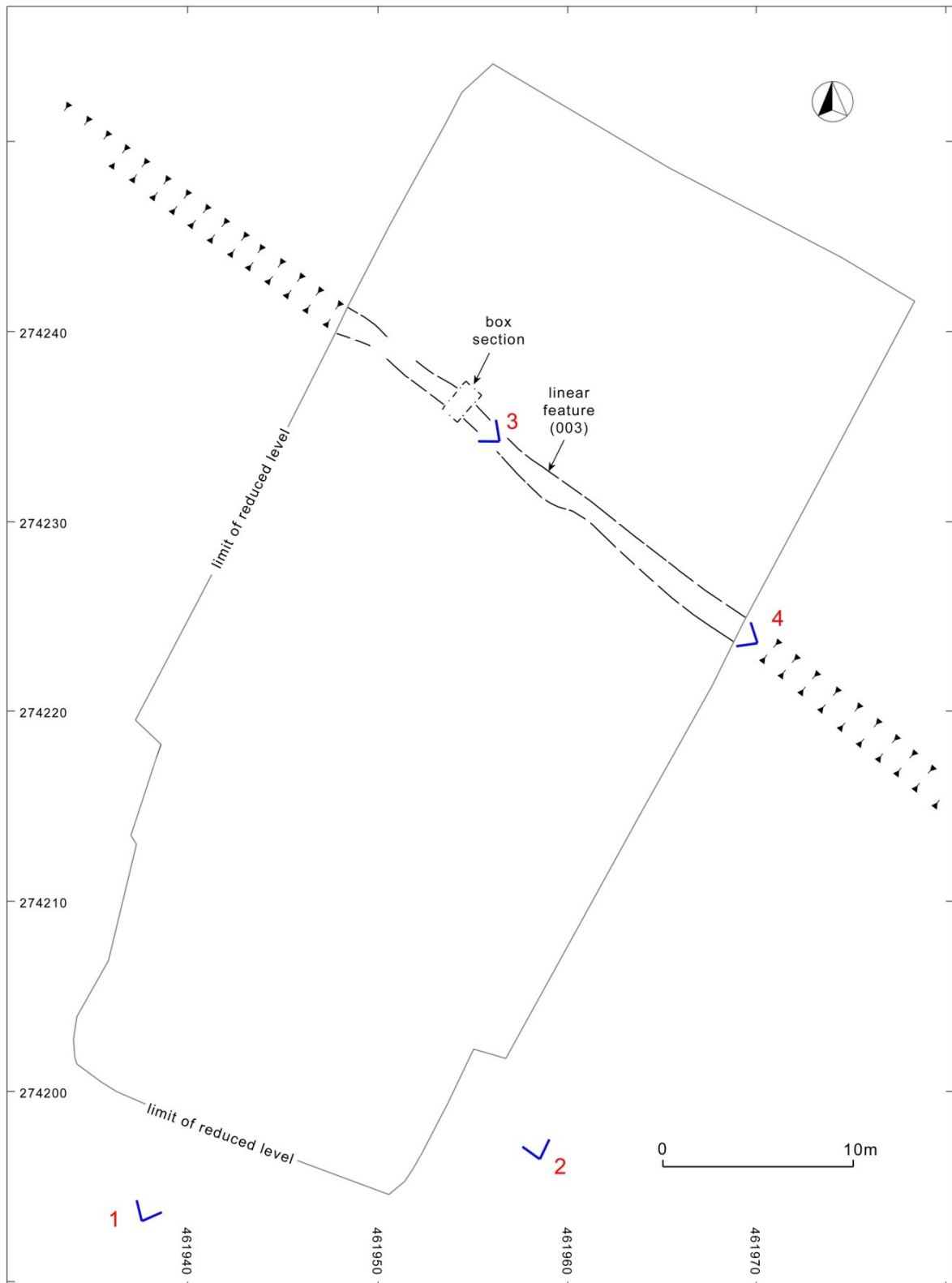
**Figure 1. Location of Site**

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**Figure 2. Location of stripped area**

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**Figure 3. Plan of reduced area showing location of linear feature and direction of photographs 1-4 (section 12)**

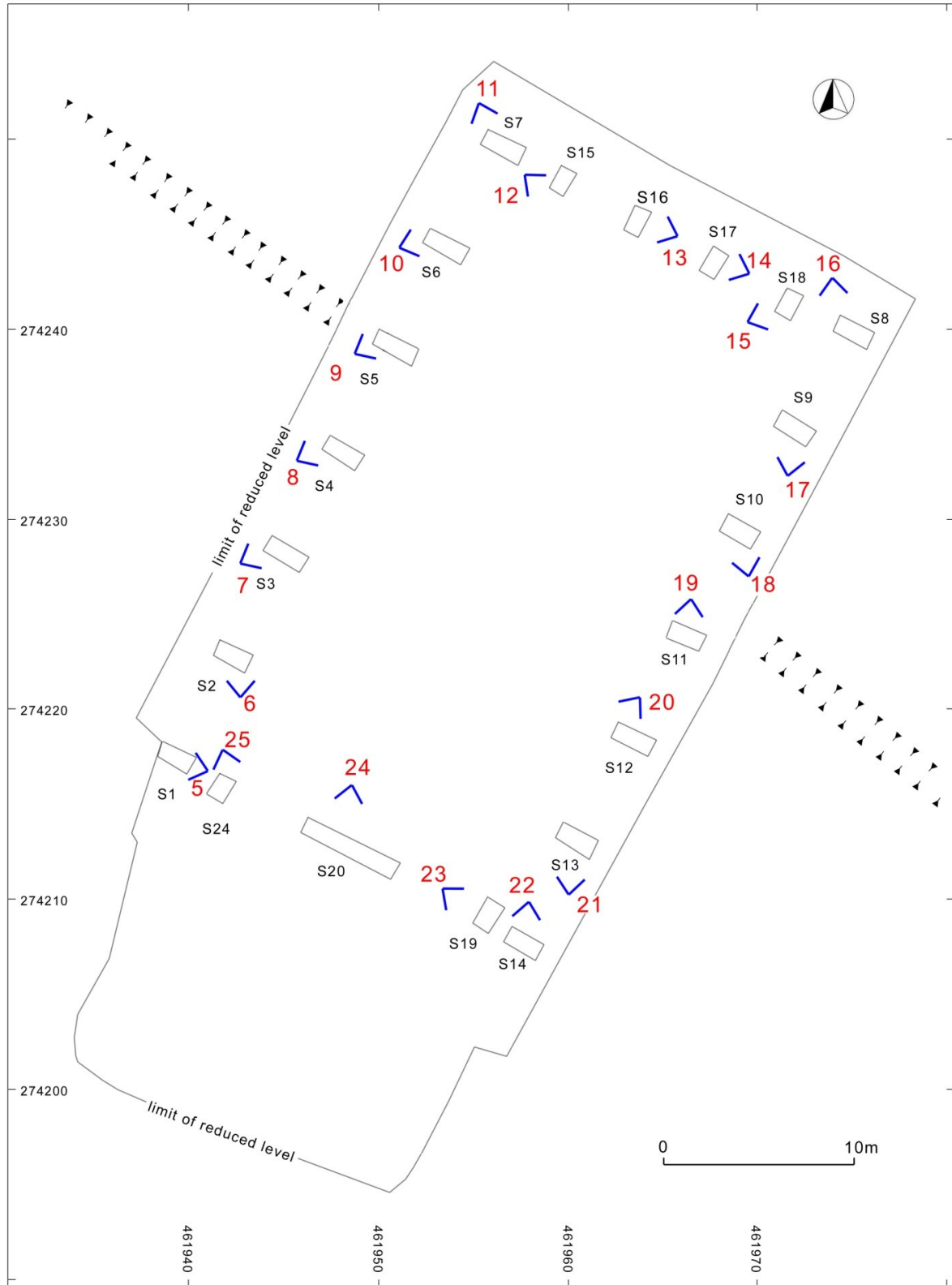


Figure 4. Location of stanchion pits and direction of photographs 5-25



## **12. PHOTOGRAPHS**

**1 .  
Overview of the  
Application Site prior  
to works. Facing NW**



**2.  
Overview of stripped  
area. Facing NE**





**3.**  
**Overview of linear**  
**feature (003).**  
**Facing NW**



**4. Box section through linear feature (003). Facing NW**





5. S1



6. S2



7. S3



8. S4



9. S5



10. S6

### Stanchion pits





11. S7



12. S8



13. S9



14. S10



15. S11



16. S12

**Stanchion pits**





17. S13



18. S14



20. S16



19. S15



21. S17

**Stanchion pits**





22. S18



23. S19



25. S24

24. S20



### Stanchion pits